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35 OCT

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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WHAT IF™ ELEKTRA™ HAD LIVED?

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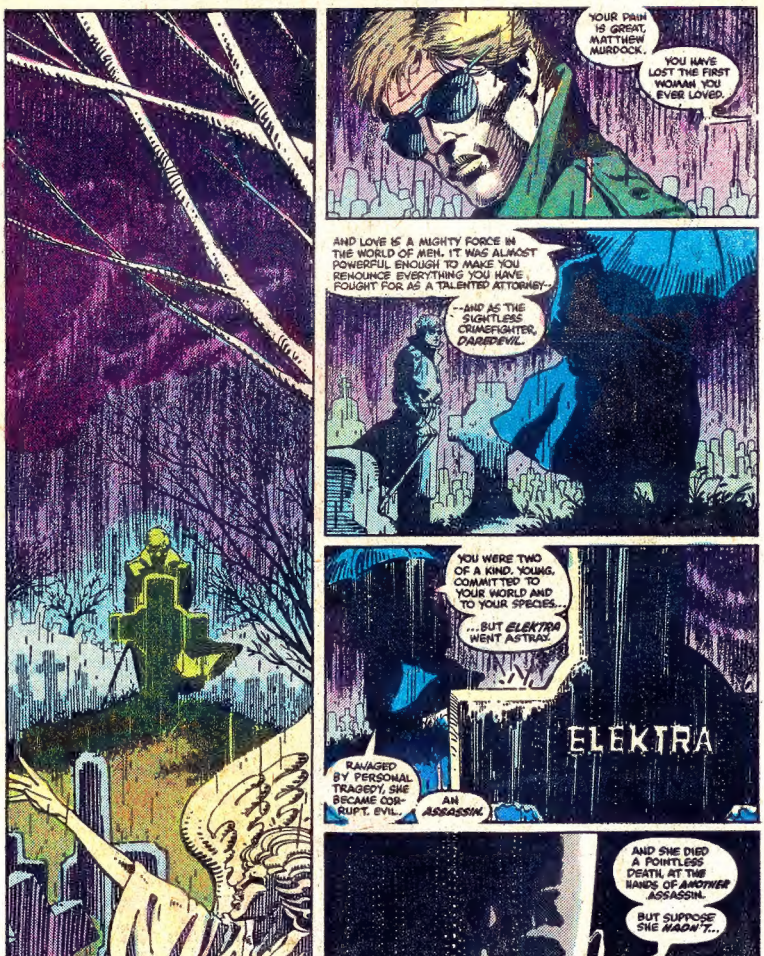
TM

HANNIGAN AND BUSCEMA

Plus... WHAT IF YELLOW-JACKET HAD DIED?



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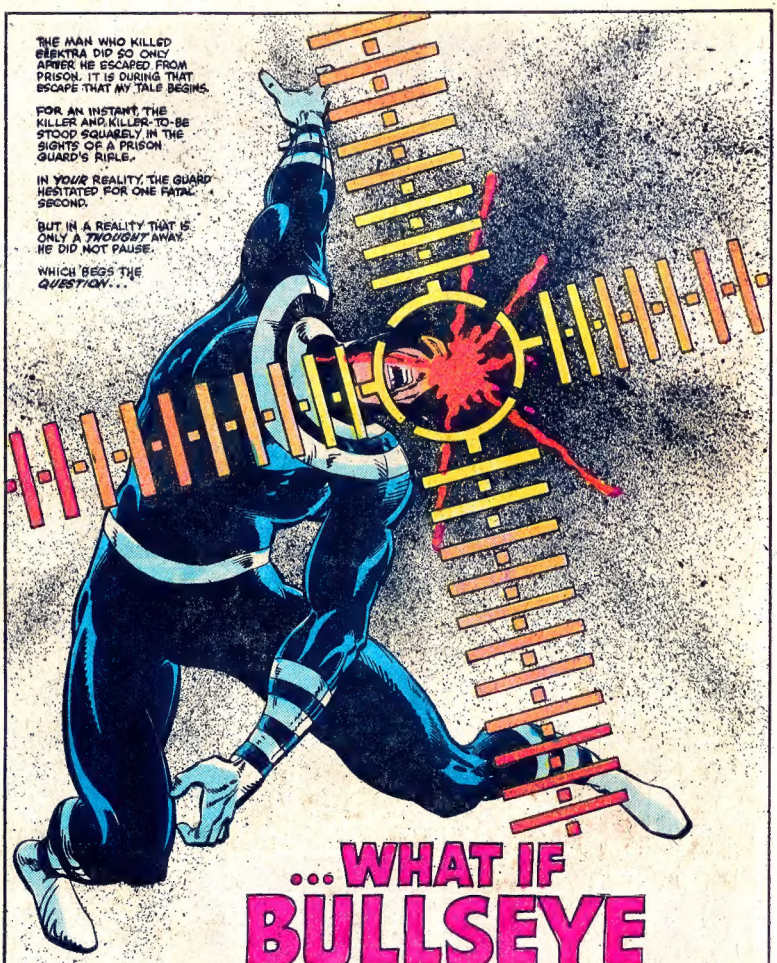

...WHAT IF BULLSEYE HAD NOT KILLED ELEKTRA?

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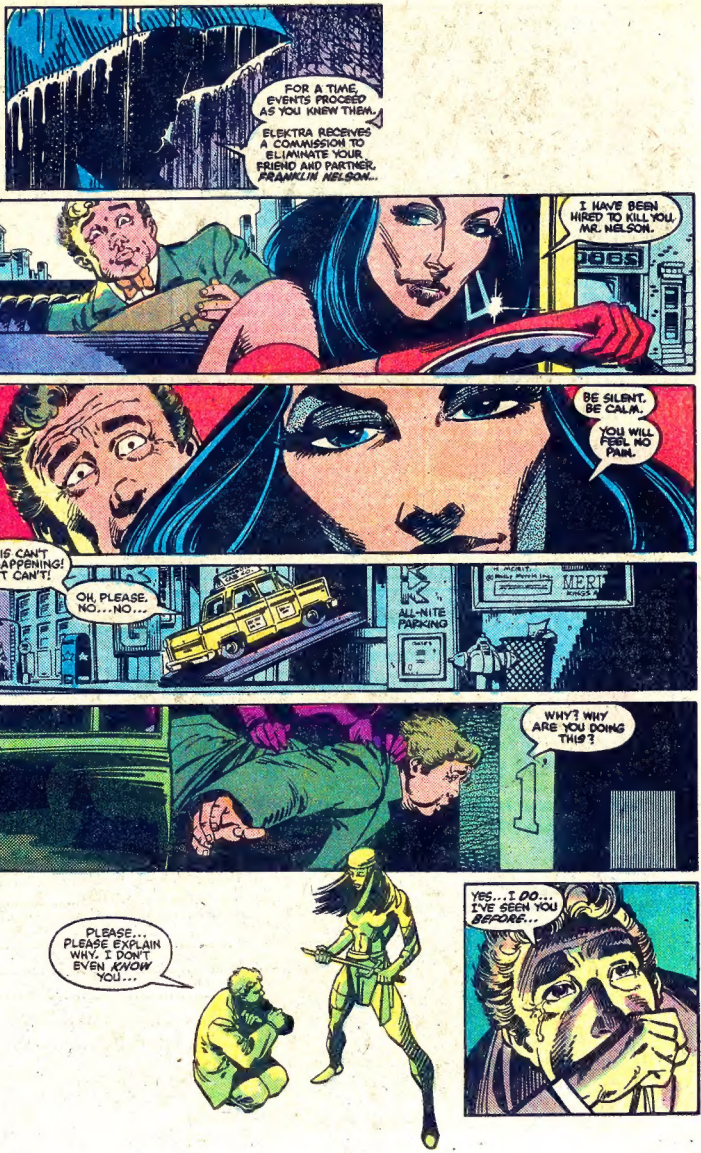
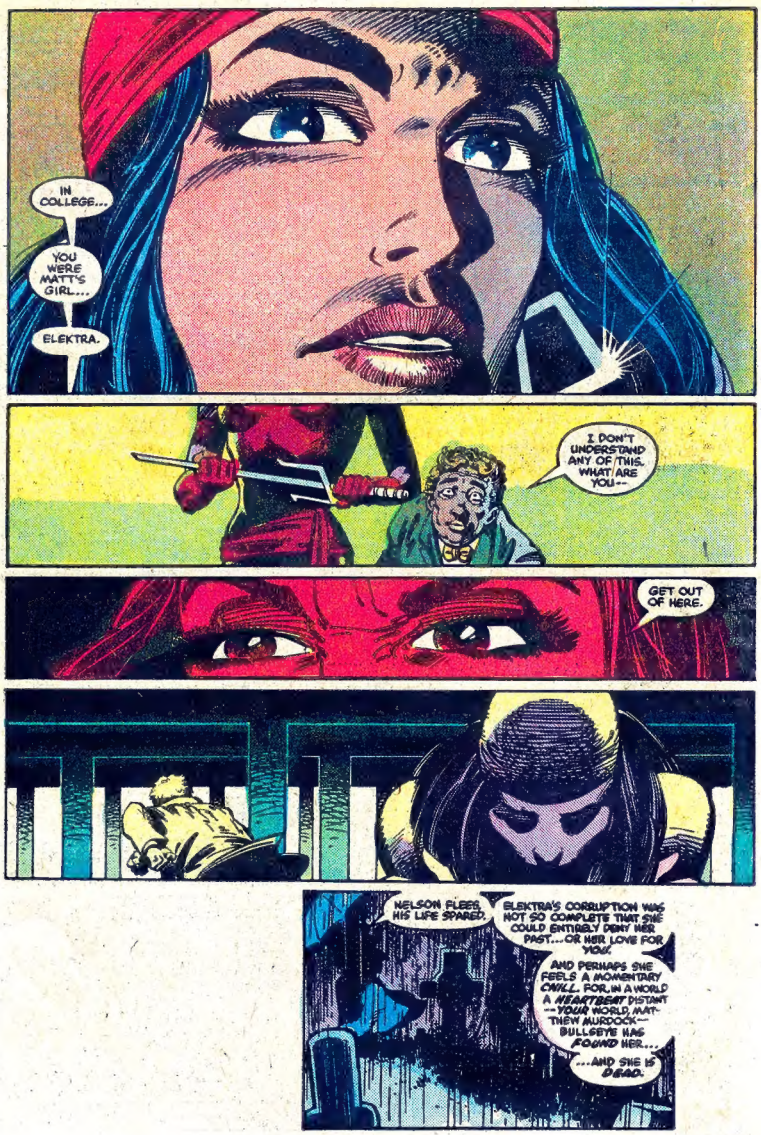
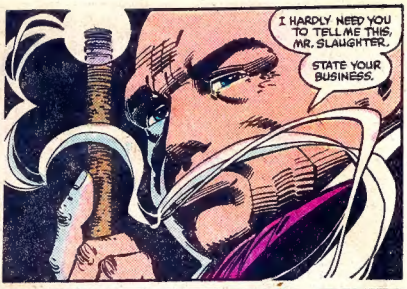
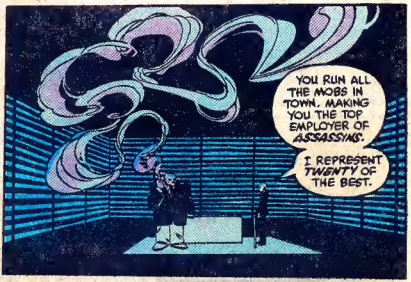

FOR A TIME, EVENTS PROCEED AS YOU KNEW THEM.
ELEKTRA RECEIVES A COMMISSION TO ELIMINATE YOUR FRIEND AND PARTNER, FRANKLIN NELSON...
I HAVE BEEN HIRED TO KILL YOU, MR. NELSON.
BE SILENT. BE CALM.
YOU WILL FEEL NO PAIN.
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! IT CAN'T!
OH, PLEASE. NO...NO...
ALL-NITE PARKING
MERIT
WHY? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
PLEASE... PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY. I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU...
YES... I DO... I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE...


IN COLLEGE...
YOU WERE MATT'S GIRL...
ELEKTRA.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS. WHAT ARE YOU--
GET OUT OF HERE.
NELSON FLEES, HIS LIFE SPARED.
ELEKTRA'S CORRUPTION WAS NOT SO COMPLETE THAT SHE COULD ENTIRELY DENY HER PAST...OR HER LOVE FOR YOU.
AND PERHAPS SHE FEELS A MOMENTARY CHILL. FOR, IN A WORLD A HEARTBEAT DISTANT --YOUR WORLD, MATTHEW MURDOCK-- BULLSEYE HAS FOUND HER...
...AND SHE IS DEAD.

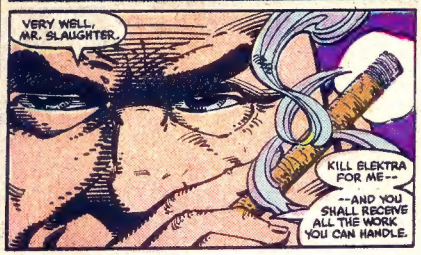
BUT DO NOT HOPE THAT THIS SINGLE ACT OF CONSCIENCE WILL SAVE ELEKTRA. THE PATH OF EVIL IS STEEP AND TREACHEROUS--AND ONE ON WHICH SHE HAS TRAVELLED FAR.
SOON, WORD OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED REACHES HER EMPLOYER...

FRANKLIN NELSON IS STILL ALIVE, KINGPIN.
WHICH MEANS ELEKTRA HAS EITHER FAILED YOU--OR BETRAYED YOU.


I HARDLY NEED YOU TO TELL ME THIS, MR. SLAUGHTER.
STATE YOUR BUSINESS.

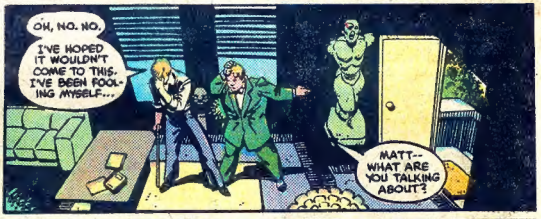

YOU RUN ALL THE MOBS IN TOWN, MAKING YOU THE TOP EMPLOYER OF ASSASSINS.
I REPRESENT TWENTY OF THE BEST.

BUT EVER SINCE YOU HIRED ELEKTRA, SHE'S GOTTEN ALL THE HIGH-PRICED CONTRACTS. LEAVING MY MEN CHICKEN FEED.
NOW, I FIGURE THE FIELD'S WIDE OPEN AGAIN.


VERY WELL, MR. SLAUGHTER.
KILL ELEKTRA FOR ME--
--AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE ALL THE WORK YOU CAN HANDLE.

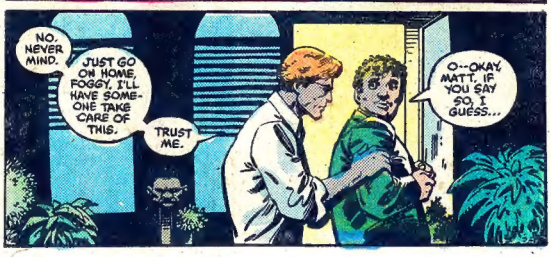
FORGOTTEN, IN THIS GANGLAND SKIRMISH, IS THE ORIGINAL *TARGET* OF THE KINGPIN'S WRATH.
AND, SINCE FRANKLIN NELSON IS BUT A SMALL MAN CAUGHT IN FRIGHTENING CIRCUMSTANCE, HE SEEKS OUT HIS CLOSEST *FRIEND*...

WHAT IS IT, FOGGY? WHAT'S *WRONG*?
IT'S *CRAZY*! IT'S *CRAZY*!
YOUR OLD GIRLFRIEND-- ELEKTRA-- SHE'S SOME KIND OF *ASSASSIN* NOW!
SHE ALMOST *KILLED* ME!


OH, NO. NO.
I'VE HOPED IT WOULDN'T COME TO THIS. I'VE BEEN FOOLING MYSELF...
MATT-- WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

FOGGY-- THERE'S SOMETHING I SHOULD *TELL* YOU.
WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS... FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. YOU *DESERVE* TO KNOW...
WHAT IS IT, MATT?

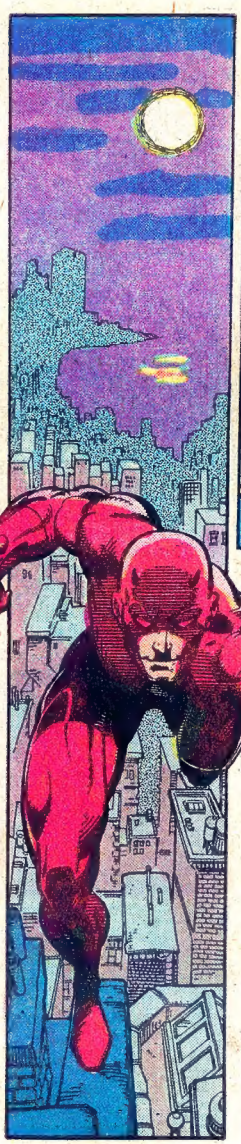
I'M...


NO, NEVER MIND.
JUST GO ON HOME, FOGGY. I'LL HAVE SOMEONE TAKE CARE OF THIS.
TRUST ME.
O--OKAY, MATT. IF YOU SAY SO, I GUESS...

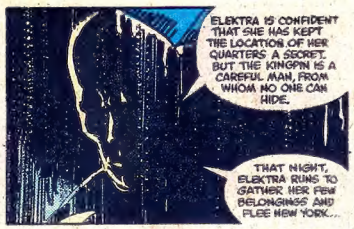
YOU'VE GONE TOO *FAR*, ELEKTRA.

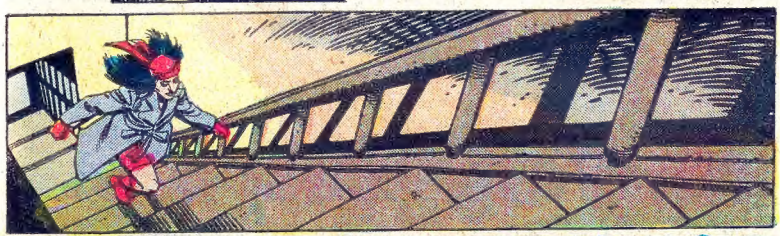
NO MATTER WHAT I'VE FELT FOR YOU...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I MAY STILL *LOVE* YOU...
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR.
THK

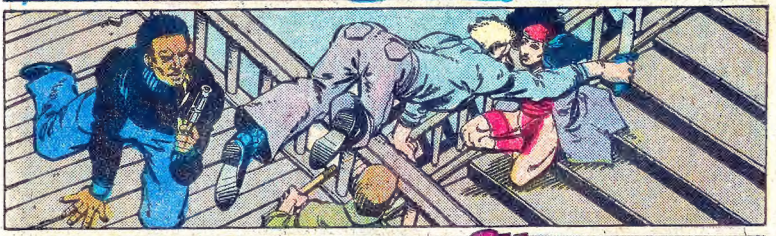


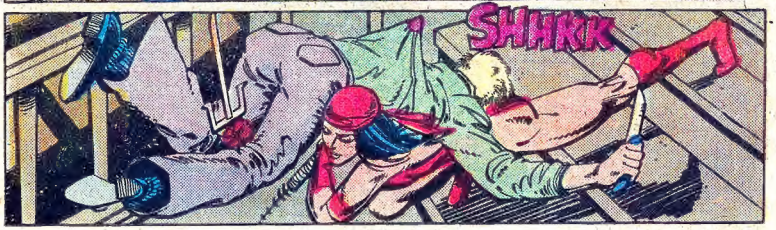
YOU SEARCH DESPERATELY, HOPELESSLY.
YOU CANNOT FIND HER.

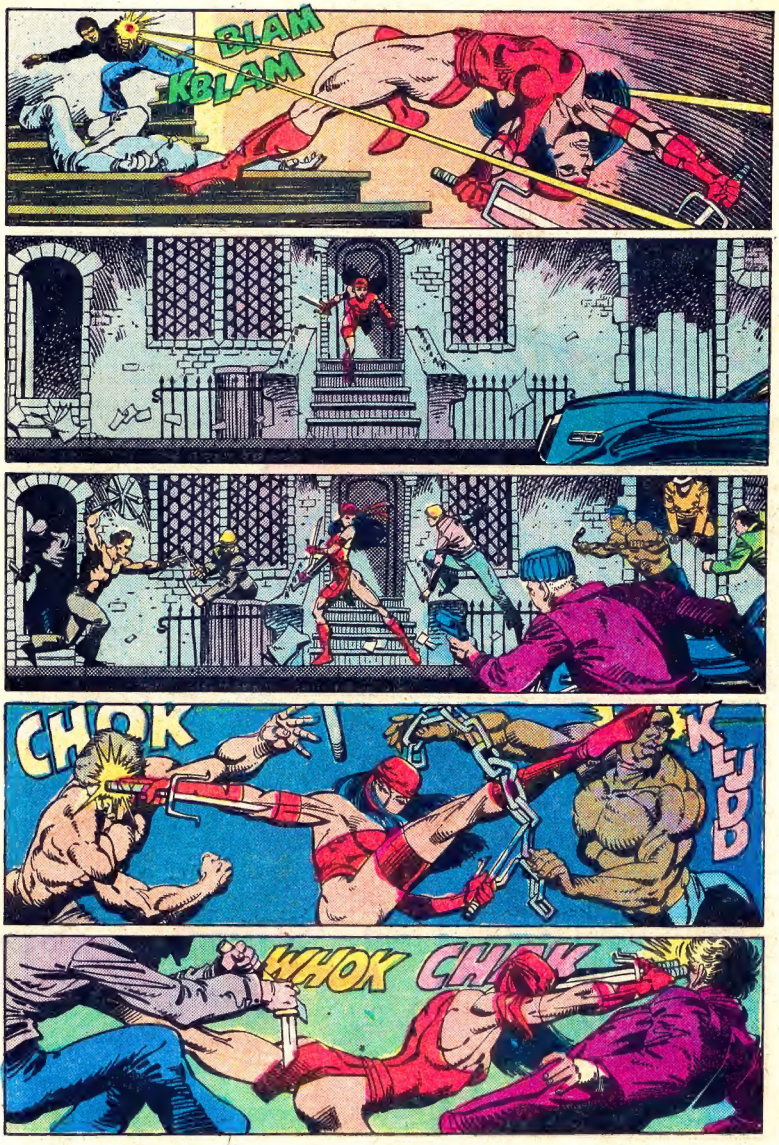

ELEKTRA IS CONFIDENT THAT SHE HAS KEPT THE LOCATION OF HER QUARTERS A SECRET. BUT THE KINGPIN IS A CAREFUL MAN, FROM WHOM NO ONE CAN HIDE.
THAT NIGHT, ELEKTRA RUNS TO GATHER HER FEW BELONGINGS AND FLEE NEW YORK...



KREEKK

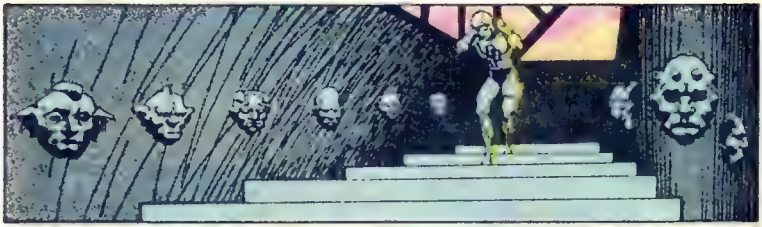


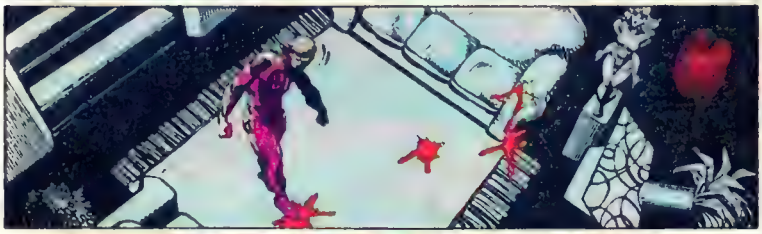

SHHKK


BLAM
KBLAM
CHOK
KLUD
WHOK
CHOK

KRAK
BLAMM
THUNK

AS DAWN BREAKS, MURDOCK, YOU SUB-
RENDER TO WEAKNESS,
MUSCLE AND WILL.
YOU GO HOME



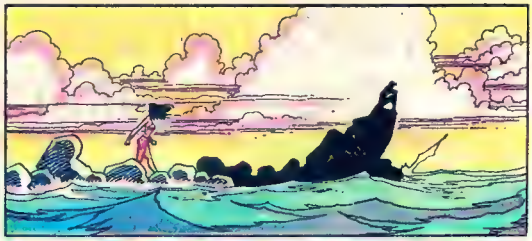


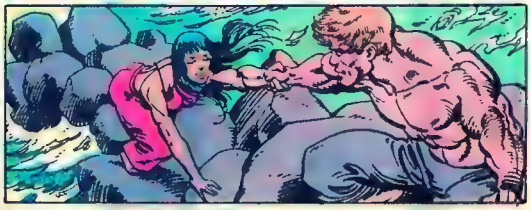
I'M TAKING YOU IN.
THE KINGPIN HAS ORDERED MY DEATH.
IF I GO TO PRISON, I WILL DIE THERE. HE WILL SEE TO THAT.
DO YOU WANT ME TO DIE, MATT?

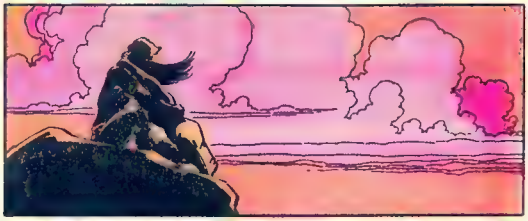
...NO, MS. LAVENDER, I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS, OR WHEN HE'S COMING BACK.
RING
EXCUSE ME--
-- HELLO, NELSON AND MURDOCK. NO, MR. TOWER, MR. MURDOCK IS NOT IN. YES, MR. TOWER, I KNOW HE HASN'T--
HELLO?
FOGGY, THIS IS RIDICULOUS.
MATT HASN'T CALLED IN SINCE TUESDAY! HE'S LEFT FOUR CASES HANGING!
TRIED HIM AT HOME?
FOUR TIMES, TODAY.
FOGGY--MATT'S SO INDEPENDENT, WE CAN ALMOST FORGET THAT HE'S BLIND. IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO HIM...
I'M WORRIED, FOGGY.
RING RING
SO AM I, BECKY.
SO AM I.
YOU LOOK DEEP INSIDE YOURSELF, MATTHEW MURDOCK --AND YOU ANSWER ELEKTRA.
THREE DAYS LATER, YOUR PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES HAVE MORE QUESTIONS TO ASK...

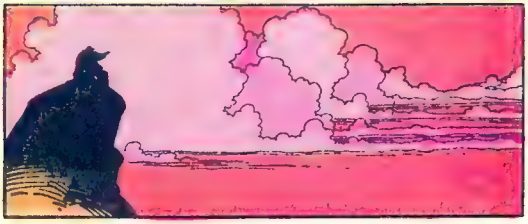
IN HIS SEARCH FOR ANSWERS, FRANKLIN NELSON FINDS ONLY...
...MORE QUESTIONS...
CAMON, MATT! OPEN UP!
YOU GOTTA BE HOME...
HELLO. YOU MUST BE MR. McREADY. A TRIFLE EARLY, AREN'T YOU?
NO HARM DONE. COME RIGHT IN.
NORTHERN EXPOSURE, THREE FLOORS, SUCH A NICE NEIGHBORHOOD.
IT REALLY IS A SPLENDID BUILDING.
SURELY WORTH THE PRICE. HMMM?
LET ME SHOW YOU UPSTAIRS
W--WAIT A MINUTE, LADY. WHAT'S...
I MEAN...THIS IS MY BEST FRIEND'S PLACE...
...ISN'T IT?
DON'T BE SILLY.
THIS BROWNSTONE IS FOR SALE.

FRANKLIN NELSON WILL NEVER FIND YOU.
HE WILL NOT SEE A NEW LIFE BEGIN, HALF A WORLD AWAY...

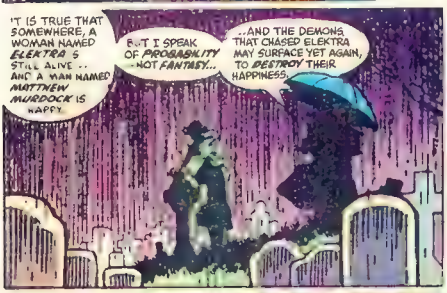






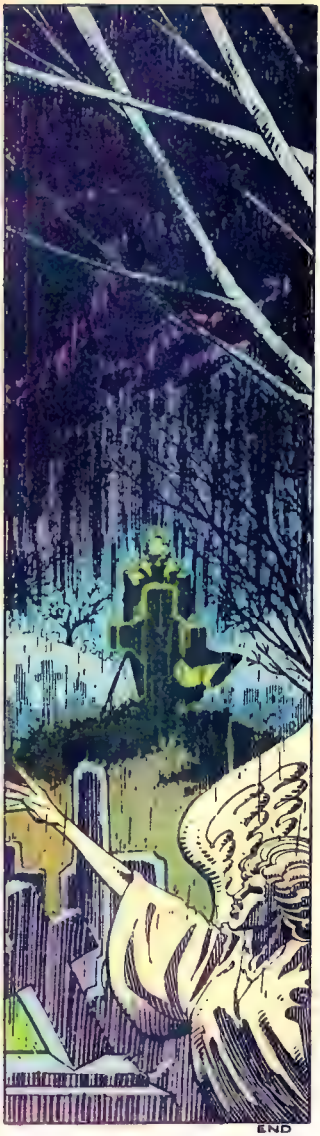


DO NOT LET THIS PAIN YOU.


'IT IS TRUE THAT SOMEWHERE, A WOMAN NAMED ELEKTRA IS STILL ALIVE .. AND A MAN NAMED MATTHEW MURDOCK IS HAPPY.
BUT I SPEAK OF PROBABILITY --NOT FANTASY...
..AND THE DEMONS THAT CHASED ELEKTRA MAY SURFACE YET AGAIN, TO DESTROY THEIR HAPPINESS.

AND THOUGH YOU CANNOT IN THIS REALITY, THE CITY YOU SO DEARLY LOVE HAS NOT LOST ITS CHAMPION.
THOSE YOU HOLD CLOSE HAVE NOT LOST A MAN WHO IS TO THEM AN ANCHOR AGAINST AN UNCERTAIN UNIVERSE
THAT IS YOUR DESTINY MATTHEW MURDOCK

I LIVE IT.


END

WHY NOT?

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

MARK GRUENWALD
EDITOR
MICHAEL CARLIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel,

Re: WHAT IF #31. Now this is how an alternate reality tale should be done! You take a small event in Marvel history (like Wolverine battling the Hulk), change its ending, then watch how it affects subsequent events down the line. It's interesting to see what it would have been like to have Wolverine a part of the "old" team of X-Men. Although, I'm generally not in favor of two WHAT IF stories in one issue, I must admit that the Fantastic Four co-feature had its merits.

Scott Petersen
12509 St. Anne Ct.
Mequon, WI 53092

Well, Scott, we try to find just the right length for all the alternate world tales we present. If an idea warrants the whole book, we'll do it that way. If not, we'll present more than one out-of-this-world excursion in an issue. So far the Watcher's been only too happy to oblige us with a second story if we ask politely.

Dear What Ifers,

"WHAT IF Wolverine Killed the Hulk?" was one of the best stories you guys have come out with in a while. I have yet to read a story featuring my favorite character Wolverine that hasn't been top-notch.

There are a couple of questions I had while reading it, though. First, in INHUMANS #12, Karnak, the master of karate, points out that the Hulk's weak point lies just below his heart. At the time this surprised me because I didn't think the Hulk had a weak point. But now in WHAT IF #31, you show us that Hulk's weak point is his throat. What gives? Was Karnak wrong or does Hulk have more than one weak point?

Another thing, if Wolverine is capable of beating the Hulk, how could Spider-Man have classified Wolverine as "normal strength" in his power chart in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #15? I'm sure Wolverine could take on most of the people in Spider-Man's weight class.

Lorenzo Napolano
8851 Cure Legault
Lasalle P.Q.
Canada

Valid questions, Lorenzo. As we see it, Karnak and Wolverine were talking about two different things. Karnak, whose mental ability enables him to find the stress points in everything around him, was looking for a pressure point on the Hulk by which he could be kayoed with a masterful karate blow. Wolverine, on the other hand, was looking not for a pressure point, but the spot in Hulk's anatomy most vulnerable to stabbing. This would not necessarily be the same place, although only a thorough anatomical test of ol' Greenskin would tell for sure (and we sure don't have the nerve to ask him!). As for Spider-Man's infamous power rating chart, the amazing arachnid was only measuring sheer brute strength (the ability to lift something) not fighting ability.

Now for something a bit tougher to answer...

Dear Marvel,

I take it that WHAT IF #31 takes place in 1974, the year HULK #181 came out. Well, on mainstream Marvel-Earth, Magneto was imprisoned at the time beneath the earth where electromagnetic forces negated his powers (revealed in DEFENDERS #15) for crimes committed in AVENGERS #110-111, 1973. And when Magneto escaped that globe, he found machinery that enabled him to create Alpha, the Ultimate Mutant (DEFENDERS #16). My question is: why would Maggie abandon his plans for Alpha just by seeing that the Hulk was slain, and try to induct him just to get at the X-Guys? This is never explained in the story. Also...the Sentinels never struck in 1974. The struck in 1972 (AVENGERS #101-103) and 1976 (X-MEN #98-100), but were quite inactive in 1974. You didn't explain that one either. In the future, if you want to show us an alternate reality, please give us the complete story.

Frank Titone
(Address withheld by request)

Okay, Frank, we'll come out with our hands up. Oh yes, and we promise to be more thorough in the future, so help us Watcher. Now let's take a few squints at Marveldom Assembled's reaction to our captivating co-feature in WHAT IF #31...

Dear Marvel,

If there had truly been no Fantastic Four to herald in the Marvel Age of Comics, I believe the world would indeed be bereft of those other Marvel heroes we've come to know and love. I enjoyed seeing this premise illustrated so cleverly by having the FF's troubles affect the lives and origins of their fellow super heroes. Had the Fantastic Four never been, WHAT IF #31's "What if there was no Fantastic Four?" would never have been, and that would be a shame. Thanks to all the creative crew on this issue -- and twenty years down the road -- to Stan and Jack.

Diana Schutz
6616 Telegraph Ave.
Oakland, CA 94609

And thank you, Diana.

Dear Folks,

Not bad! Not bad at all. Even though I've never particularly liked the X-Men or the Hulk, I really enjoyed WHAT IF #31. Why? Because of the co-feature, "What If there was no Fantastic Four?" That doesn't mean I had no gripes, though.

Now wait just one minute! Are you trying to tell us that the rampage of the Thing would really have prevented the origins of Spider-Man...Thor...Iron Man...and the Hulk?!? I'll almost buy Tony Stark's not going to Vietnam (to have the accident that forces him to build his iron armor), but could the same thing have happened to Dr. Robert Bruce Banner? Also, as I recall, Odin cast Thor into mortal form temporarily to teach him humility. Are we to assume that just because Dr. Don Blake missed one plane to fly to Norway that Odin is going to forget all about him and not give him another chance to regain his true heritage? And Spider-Man...in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL #2, Master Order says to Lord Chaos, "...was it not us who chose to endow him (Peter Parker) with the destiny of being Spider-Man?" If these cosmic heavyweights decree something, I find it hard to believe that they'd let Parker slip by. Other than that, I found it an enjoyable story

Jim Kevins
1623 Morgan Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Gee, Kevin, how strange. Master Order and Lord Chaos have just informed us that it is our destiny not to try to answer your questions. Sorry, pal. The Watcher, however, informs us that there's no such thing as one path to destiny in a continuum of alternate realities (or else they'd all be the same). Further, he says he's not responsible for certain grand coincidences that may occur on certain worlds. That's a relief, huh? Glad you liked the story anyway.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

.....Here's something that will get your cogs cranking. Coming your way later this year from the editorial team you see on the masthead above is perhaps Marvel's strangest, most ambitious project yet. What is it? Well, we don't want to let it completely out of the bag just now, but let's just say that it is a special limited series that features virtually every major Marvel super hero and super villain, in a format unlike any you've ever seen. It's going to be the collector's item of all collector's items. Remember, you heard it here first, friends.

.....Speaking of limited series, this is the month that VISION and SCARLET WITCH #1 premieres, courtesy of *Bill Mantlo* and *Rick Leonardi*. You won't want to miss a single issue of this mini-epic in the making. And while we're on the subject, HERCULES #2 by *Bob Layton* should also be rocketing its way to your favorite newsstand right about now. Collect 'em both!

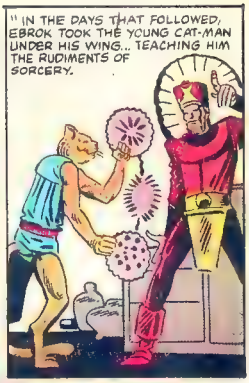
.....Now then, you may be asking, just how are we going to top this issue's "WHAT IF Elektra Lived?" instant classic, right? How about this, What If?philes -- "WHAT IF THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAD NEVER GAINED THEIR POWERS?" written and drawn by none other than the FF's own *John Byrne*. You've got it -- rhapsodic retelling of FF #1 with one great big difference. And as if that's not enough, our co-feature next month is "WHAT IF NOVA HAD NOT GIVEN UP HIS POWERS?" brought to you by *Bill Mantlo* and *Mike Vosburg*. Yes, you Nova-fans out there -- the story you've demanded. Two mighty good reasons to stick around on this reality another sixty days.

-- Mark

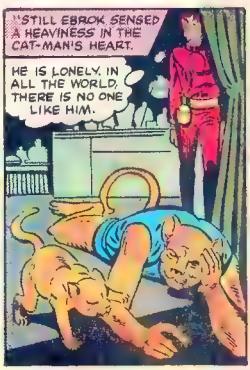
Stan Lee presents: UNTOLD TALES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE!

I'VE DONE IT!
IT TOOK THE MOST COMPLEX SPELL I'VE EVER CONJURED, BUT I'VE TURNED A SIMPLE CAT INTO A NEW MAN!

I SHALL CALL YOU FLAVIUS!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
EE..EE..YES! BUT HOW--? IT IS A MIRACLE!
NO, MY SON... IT IS MAGIC!

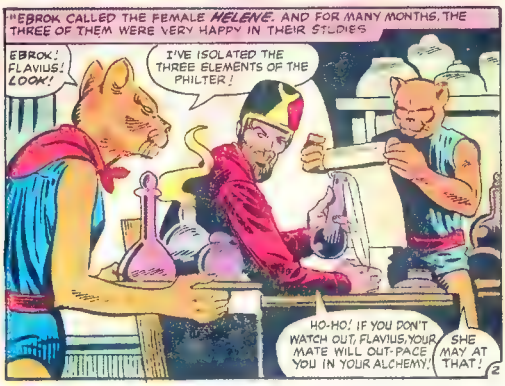

" IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, EBROK TOOK THE YOUNG CAT-MAN UNDER HIS WING... TEACHING HIM THE RUDIMENTS OF SORCERY.

"BUT FLAVIUS' TRUE TALENT WAS ELSEWHERE...
SO, YOU'D RATHER PLAY WITH POTIONS THAN SPELLS, EH?
YES EBROK. I FIND ALCHEMY... INTERESTING.


"STILL EBROK SENSED A HEAVINESS IN THE CAT-MAN'S HEART.
HE IS LONELY, IN ALL THE WORLD, THERE IS NO ONE LIKE HIM.

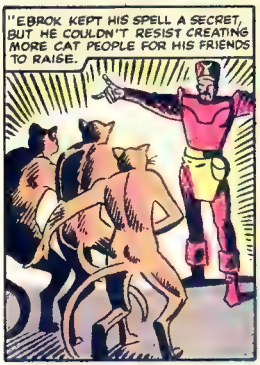
BUT THAT CAN BE REMEDIED!

PRRRT?! OH...MY!
?!?!

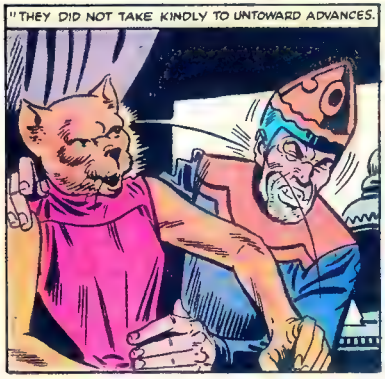

"EBROK CALLED THE FEMALE HELENE. AND FOR MANY MONTHS, THE THREE OF THEM WERE VERY HAPPY IN THEIR STUDIES
EBROK! FLAVIUS! LOOK!
I'VE ISOLATED THE THREE ELEMENTS OF THE PHILTER!
HO-HO! IF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT, FLAVIUS, YOUR MATE WILL OUT-PACE YOU IN YOUR ALCHEMY!
SHE MAY AT THAT!

"EBROK WAS VERY PROUD OF THE CAT PEOPLE, AND SO HE CALLED THREE FELLOW MYSTICS TO JOIN HIM IN FEASTING... THAT HE MIGHT SHOW OFF HIS CREATIONS.
REMARKABLE!
MORE WINE, SIR?
WHY... YES. THANK YOU.

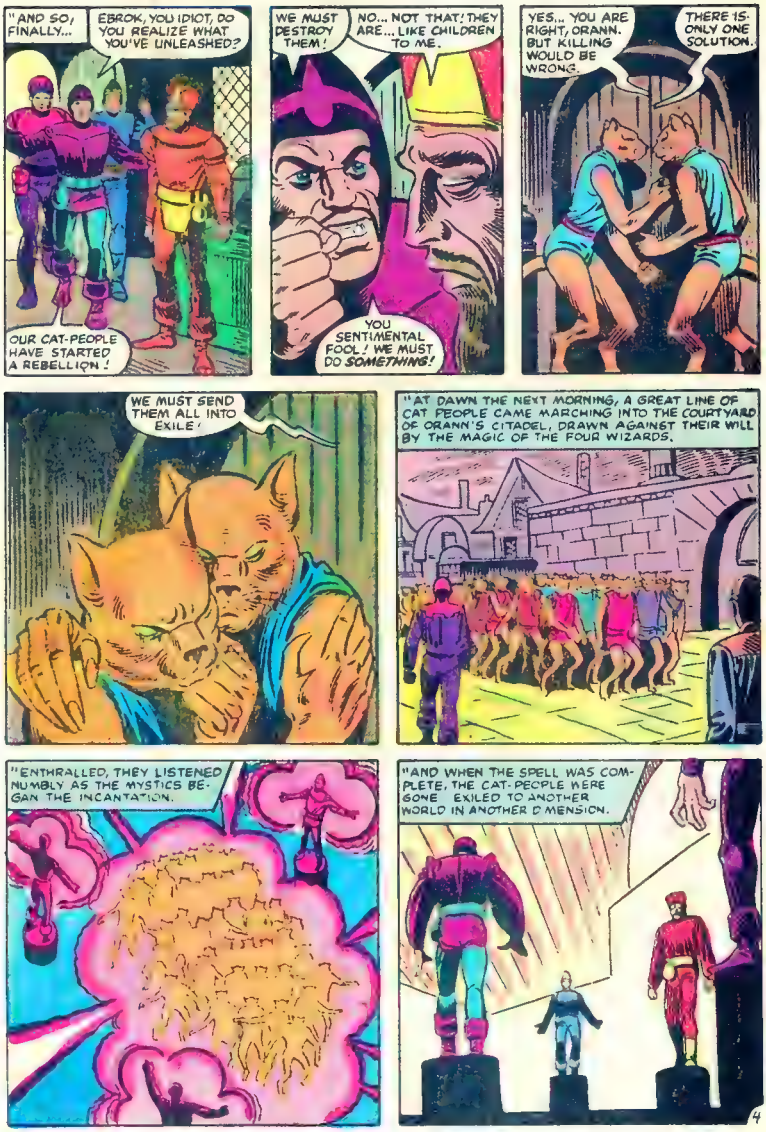
ALL RIGHT, EBROK-- HOW DID YOU DO IT?
HA-HAH! THE POTENTIAL HAS BEEN IN THE CATS SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME, ORANN! I MERELY GAVE THEM A PUSH!


"EBROK KEPT HIS SPELL A SECRET, BUT HE COULDN'T RESIST CREATING MORE CAT PEOPLE FOR HIS FRIENDS TO RAISE.

"AND SOON, THE OTHER WIZARDS FOUND THAT THE FELINES--WHICH THEY USED AS SERVANTS--WERE A VERY MIXED BLESSING.
"THE CAT PEOPLE STILL REPRODUCED IN LITTERS AND MATURED RAPIDLY.


"THEY DID NOT TAKE KINDLY TO UNTOWARD ADVANCES.

"AND ORANN, WHO TRAINED HIS CAT-MEN TO BE SENTRIES, DISCOVERED THAT THEY TOOK TOO EAGERLY TO HIS OWN WARLIKE WAYS!


"AND SO, FINALLY...
EBROK, YOU IDIOT, DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE UNLEASHED?
OUR CAT-PEOPLE HAVE STARTED A REBELLION!
WE MUST DESTROY THEM!
NO... NOT THAT! THEY ARE... LIKE CHILDREN TO ME.
YOU SENTIMENTAL FOOL! WE MUST DO SOMETHING!
YES... YOU ARE RIGHT, ORANN. BUT KILLING WOULD BE WRONG.
THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION.
WE MUST SEND THEM ALL INTO EXILE!
"AT DAWN THE NEXT MORNING, A GREAT LINE OF CAT PEOPLE CAME MARCHING INTO THE COURTYARD OF ORANN'S CITADEL, DRAWN AGAINST THEIR WILL BY THE MAGIC OF THE FOUR WIZARDS.
"ENTHRALLED, THEY LISTENED NUMBLY AS THE MYSTICS BEGAN THE INCANTATION.
"AND WHEN THE SPELL WAS COMPLETE, THE CAT-PEOPLE WERE GONE, EXILED TO ANOTHER WORLD IN ANOTHER DIMENSION.

"MUCH LATER, A SADDENED EBROK RETURNED TO HIS HUMBLE COTTAGE...
EBROK?
EH?
WHO ARE YOU, YOUNG PEOPLE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOME?
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE US, EBROK?
YOU SHOULDN'T TEASE HIM SO, DEAR! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE'S UPSET?
YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE.
IT'S TIME WE RETURNED TO OUR TRUE FORMS!
"CONCENTRATING ON THEIR CAT'S-HEAD AMULETS, THE YOUNG COUPLE--
"-- CHANGED BEFORE EBROK'S EYES!
AH, YES! MUCH BETTER! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GET ALONG WITHOUT FUR, EBROK.
PRAISE OSHTUR! HELENE... FLAVIUS... IT'S REALLY YOU! HOW--?
THE MYSTIC AMULETS WE DEVISED ENABLE US TO RESIST THE ENTRANCEMENT SPELL BY TURNING US HUMAN!
JUST TEMPORARILY, MIND YOU! WE COULDN'T BEAR TO LEAVE YOU, EBROK!
YES, SOMEBODY HAS TO LOOK AFTER YOU! IT MIGHT AS WELL BE US!
"AGAIN THE THREE THREW THEMSELVES INTO THEIR WORK, BUT THIS TIME THERE WAS AN AIR OF DESPERATION IN WHAT THEY DID.
IF WE CAN'T FIND A WAY TO ALTER OUR BREEDING RATE, HELENE AND I MUST BE THE LAST OF OUR RACE, OTHERWISE OUR OFFSPRING WOULD OVERRUN THE WORLD!

"YEARS PASSED, AS THEY LIVED AND WORKED IN SECRET.
YOU AND HELENE ASTOUND ME, FLAVIUS. THESE CALCULATIONS OF YOURS GO BEYOND ANY ALCHEMICAL WORK I HAVE EVER SEEN.
THE SCIENCES YOU HAVE TAPPED MAY ONE DAY SURPASS MY SORCERY.
IT IS NOTHING WHICH MAN HIMSELF CANNOT ACHIEVE.
AYE, THAT IS WHAT I FEAR. WHEN MANKIND DISCOVERS WHAT YOU HAVE, FLAVIUS, WILL IT HAVE THE WISDOM TO USE THAT KNOWLEDGE FOR THE GOOD?
WHAT YOU HAVE ISOLATED IN THAT VIAL ALONE IS FEARSOME TO BEHOLD!
"AND THEN...
I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH!
SO, EBROK--YOU HAVE HARBORED CAT PEOPLE, VIOLATING THE TRUST OF YOUR FELLOW WIZARDS!
AND YOU HAVE AIDED THESE MONSTERS IN SURPASSING MAN'S KNOWLEDGE!
THERE CAN BE BUT ONE PUNISHMENT FOR SUCH TREASON!
NO!!
HYPOCRITE! 'TWAS YOU WHO TAUGHT MY BRETHREN THE WAYS OF WAR! MEN SUCH AS YOU DESTROY WHATEVER GOOD THERE MIGHT BE IN THIS WORLD!
WHUUGH
"GASPING FOR BREATH, ORANN BOLTED FROM THE COTTAGE, DASHING DOWN THE HILL AND THROUGH THE NEARBY VILLAGE--
"--THE MYSTERIOUS VAPOR TRAILING AFTER HIM!

EBROK, YOU...YOU MUSTN'T DIE!
DON'T CRY FOR ME, CHILDREN. I LEAVE THE WORLD A GREAT LEGACY IN YOU!
PERHAPS NOT SO GREAT, EBROK. I USED MY GAS ON ORANN. HE IS AS GOOD AS DEAD--
--AND HE WILL SPREAD THE DISEASE THE GAS CARRIES, WHEREVER HE GOES. I...HAVE KILLED.
NONE OF US ARE WITHOUT THE TOUCH OF EVIL, MY SON! YOUR DISCOVERY MAY BRING PAIN UPON THE WORLD, BUT YOU MUST NEVER END THE SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE.
IF YOU TRY, YOU WILL FIND A WAY TO END THIS PAIN! YOU HAVE THE GENIUS... YOU HAVE... THE... WILL...
OH, FLAVIUS... HE'S GONE!
HE'S GONE, AND WE'RE ALL ALONE!
NO, HELENE. WE HAVE EACH OTHER, AND WE HAVE HOPE.
EBROK WAS RIGHT. A GREAT EVIL HAS BEEN RELEASED THIS DAY--
--BUT WE HAVE THE SKILL TO SET IT RIGHT. AND THAT WE MUST DO, IF WE ARE TO PROVE OURSELVES WORTHY OF LIFE!
"THE NEXT DAY, EBROK'S COTTAGE WAS BOARDED SHUT, AND THE CAT PEOPLE SET OFF TO RESUME THEIR WORK FROM A PLACE OF SAFETY.
IN TIME, THEY SOLVED THEIR BREEDING PROBLEMS, AND FOUND AN ANTIDOTE FOR THE PLAGUE CARRIED BY FLAVIUS' GAS...
...BUT NOT BEFORE A GREAT MANY PEOPLE DIED OF THAT NEW STRAIN OF THE BLACK DEATH!
FROM A MOUNTAIN RETREAT, THEY BEGAN THEIR RACE ANEW. KEEPING THEIR NUMBERS SMALL, THEY LIVED SECRETLY AMONG MEN, WHILE CONTINUING TO MASTER BOTH SCIENCE AND THE SUPERNATURAL.
THANKS TO THAT MASTERY, A YOUNG WOMAN OF YOUR TIME WAS SNATCHED FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH TO BECOME THE HYBRID OF HUMAN AND CAT-BEING KNOWN AS TIGRA!
ALL THIS I KNOW, FOR I AM... THE WATCHER!
END

STAN LEE PRESENTS: A STUNNING SAGA OF AN ALTERNATE REALITY!

I AM THE *WATCHER*. FOR TIME BEYOND RECKONING, I HAVE DWELT UPON EARTH'S MOON, WITNESSING EVENTS THROUGHOUT YOUR SECTOR OF SPACE.

RECENTLY, I OBSERVED ONE OF EARTH'S FOREMOST BAND OF HEROES — THE *AVENGERS*, AS THEY INDUCTED TWO RECRUITS TO THEIR DWINDLING RANKS... THE CAT-WOMAN *TIGRA* AND FORMER MEMBER *YELLOWJACKET*.

IMMEDIATELY UPON CONCLUDING ITS FIRST MEETING, THIS NEW ORDER OF AVENGERS WAS SUMMONED...

... TO DEFEND THEIR NATION'S CAPITAL AGAINST THE MYSTERIOUS MUTANT WOMAN CALLED *ELFQUEEN* WHO, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, WAS RAVAGING THE CITY IN GRIEF OVER HER LOVER.

IRON MAN

TIGRA

YELLOWJACKET

WASP

THOR

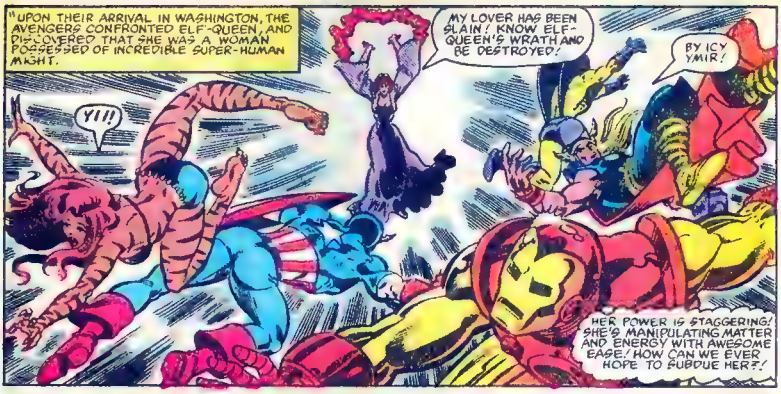
CAPTAIN AMERICA

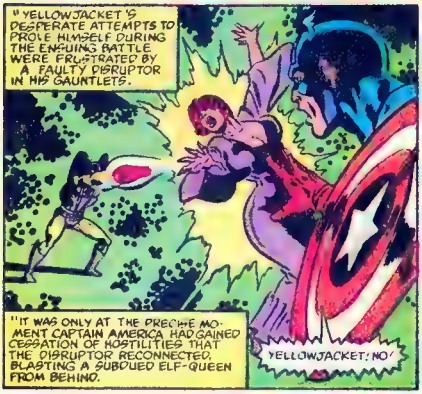
"BEHOLD HOW, IN YOUR REALITY, THE AVENGERS PREPARED TO BOARD THEIR QUINJET FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. WHEN SUDDENLY *YELLOWJACKET*, RIDDLED WITH FEELINGS OF SELF-DOUBT AND INFERIORITY, TURNED BITTERLY ON HIS LOVING WIFE, THE *WASP*.

OH, HANK!

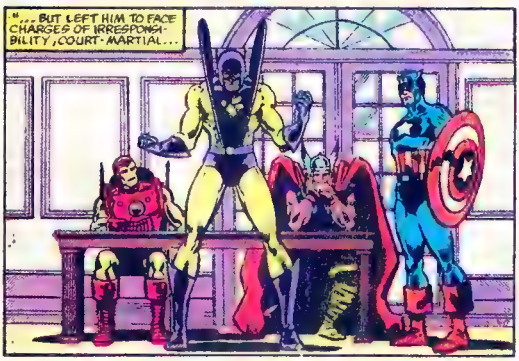
YOU LOVE FLAUNTING YOUR WEALTH, DON'T YOU? WELL, I DON'T NEED YOUR BUTLERS, YOUR CARS, OR YOUR MONEY--AND I DON'T NEED *YOU* MAKING ME LOOK LIKE A RIDICULOUS TAG-ALONG!

"SHATTERED BY HIS OUTBURST, JANET PYM REMAINED BEHIND WHILE THE OTHERS DEPARTED TO THE TASK AT HAND.

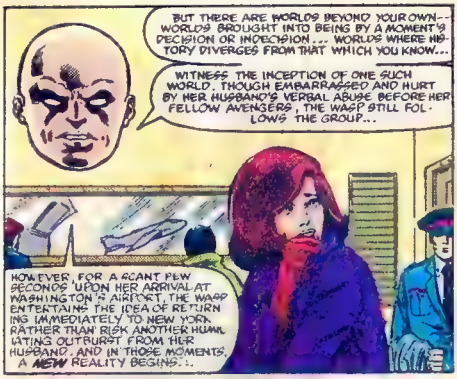

"UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON, THE AVENGERS CONFRONTED ELF-QUEEN, AND DISCOVERED THAT SHE WAS A WOMAN POSSESSED OF INCREDIBLE SUPER-HUMAN MIGHT.
YI!!
MY LOVER HAS BEEN SLAIN! KNOW ELF-QUEEN'S WRATH AND BE DESTROYED!
BY ICY YMIR!
HER POWER IS STAGGERING! SHE'S MANIPULATING MATTER AND ENERGY WITH AWESOME EASE! HOW CAN WE EVER HOPE TO SUBDUE HER?!

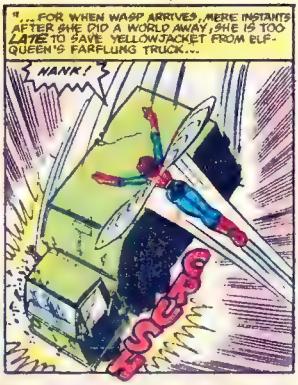

"YELLOWJACKET'S DESPERATE ATTEMPTS TO PROVE HIMSELF DURING THE ENSUING BATTLE WERE FRUSTRATED BY A FAULTY DISRUPTOR IN HIS GAUNTLETS.
"IT WAS ONLY AT THE PRECISE MOMENT CAPTAIN AMERICA HAD GAINED CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES THAT THE DISRUPTOR RECONNECTED, BLASTING A SUBDUED ELF-QUEEN FROM BEHIND.
YELLOWJACKET: NO!

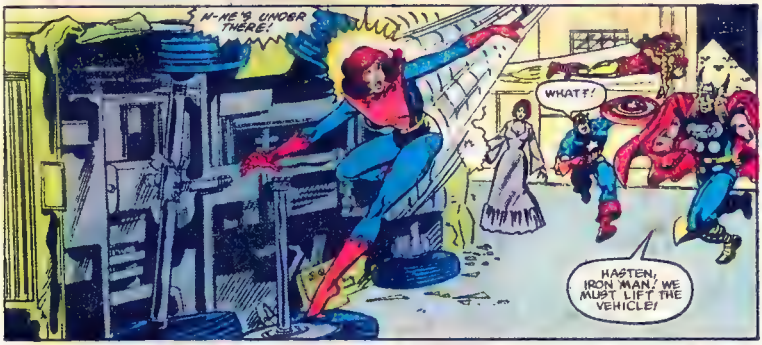
"SHE RETALIATED BY HURLING A THREE-TON TRUCK ACROSS THE AIR TOWARDS YELLOWJACKET HE WOULD HAVE BEEN CRUSHED TO DEATH, BUT
HANK!
NO! NOT YOU!
"--THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THE WASP WHO HAD FOLLOWED THE GROUP AFTER ALL--SAVED HIS LIFE.

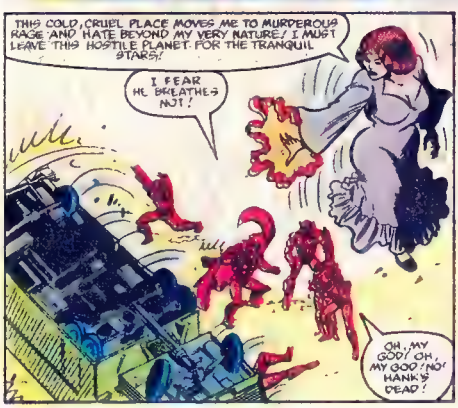

"...BUT LEFT HIM TO FACE CHARGES OF IRRESPONSIBILITY, COURT-MARTIAL...

"...AND FINAL EXPULSION FROM THE AVENGERS!
2

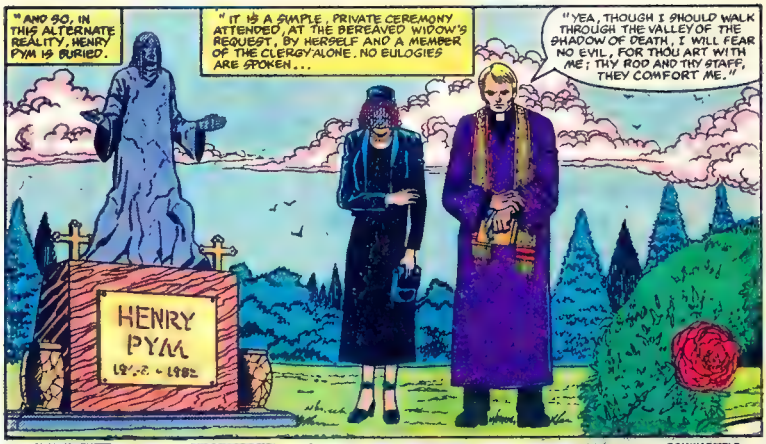

BUT THERE ARE WORLDS BEYOND YOUR OWN--WORLDS BROUGHT INTO BEING BY A MOMENT'S DECISION OR INDECISION... WORLDS WHERE HISTORY DIVERGES FROM THAT WHICH YOU KNOW...
WITNESS THE INCEPTION OF ONE SUCH WORLD. THOUGH EMBARRASSED AND HURT BY HER HUSBAND'S VERBAL ABUSE BEFORE HER FELLOW AVENGERS, THE WASP STILL FOLLOWS THE GROUP...
HOWEVER, FOR A SCANT FEW SECONDS UPON HER ARRIVAL AT WASHINGTON'S AIRPORT, THE WASP ENTERTAINS THE IDEA OF RETURNING IMMEDIATELY TO NEW YORK RATHER THAN RISK ANOTHER HUMILIATING OUTBURST FROM HER HUSBAND. AND IN THOSE MOMENTS, A NEW REALITY BEGINS...


"...FOR WHEN WASP ARRIVES, MERE INSTANTS AFTER SHE DID A WORLD AWAY, SHE IS TOO LATE TO SAVE YELLOWJACKET FROM ELF-QUEEN'S FARFLUNG TRUCK...
HANK!
CRASH


H-HE'S UNDER THERE!
WHAT?!
HASTEN, IRON MAN! WE MUST LIFT THE VEHICLE!


THIS COLD, CRUEL PLACE MOVES ME TO MURDEROUS RAGE AND HATE BEYOND MY VERY NATURE! I MUST LEAVE THIS HOSTILE PLANET FOR THE TRANQUIL STARS!
I FEAR HE BREATHES NOT!
OH, MY GOD! OH, MY GOD! NO! HANK'S DEAD!

HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?
YELLOWJACKET--!
I SAW IT ALL FROM ABOVE--WHY DID YOU WARN HER LIKE THAT? CAP WARNED HER! HE KILLED MY HANK!



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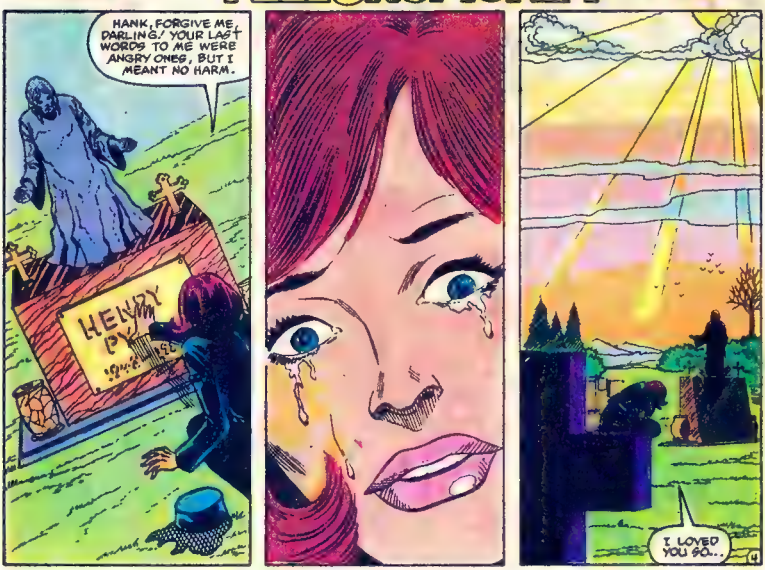
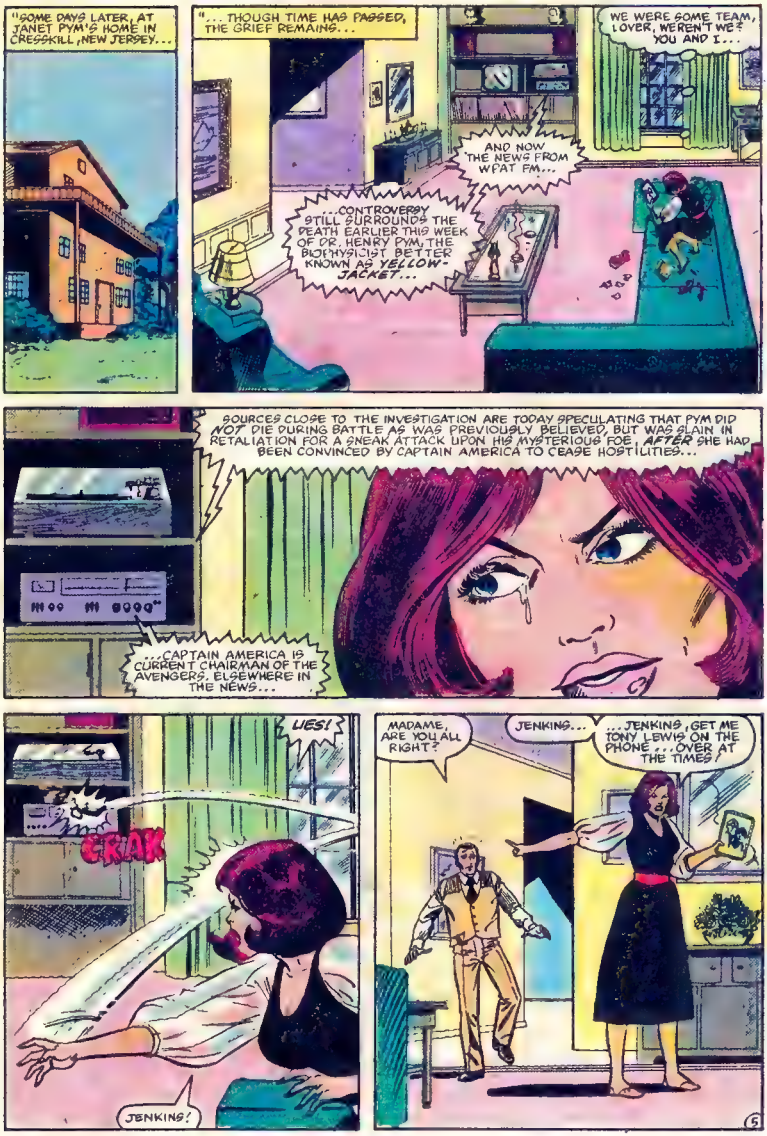
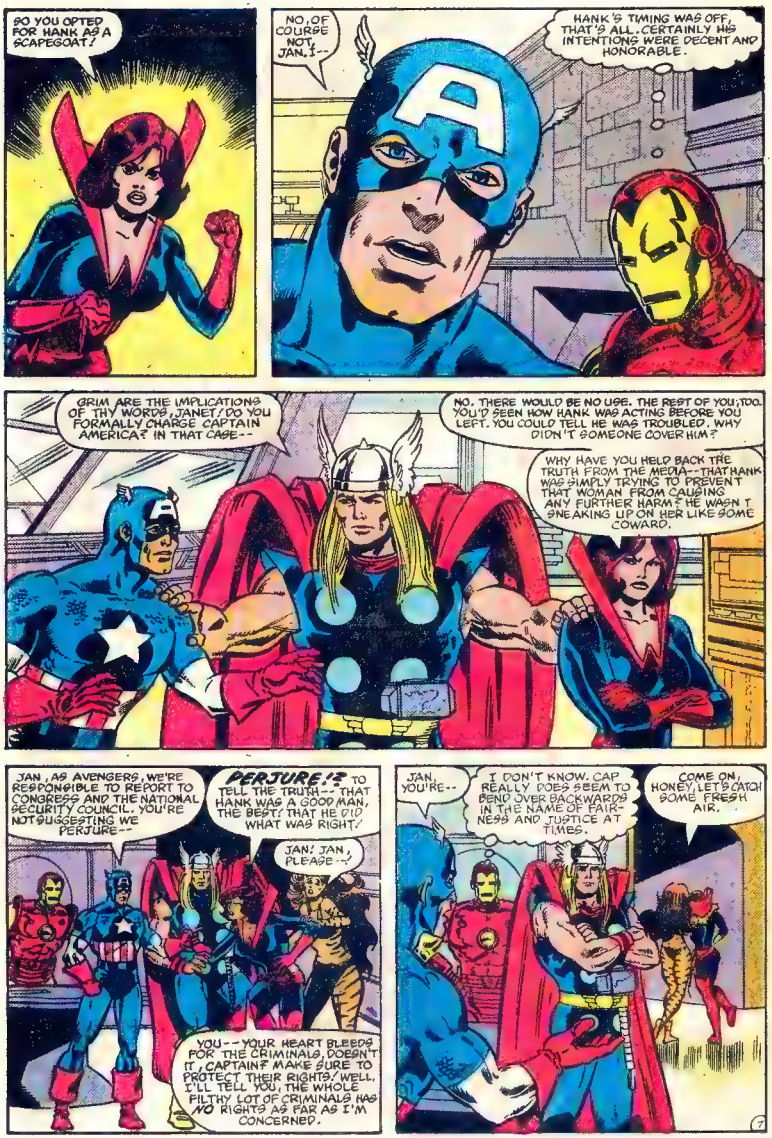
WHAT IF: YELLOWJACKET HAD DIED?

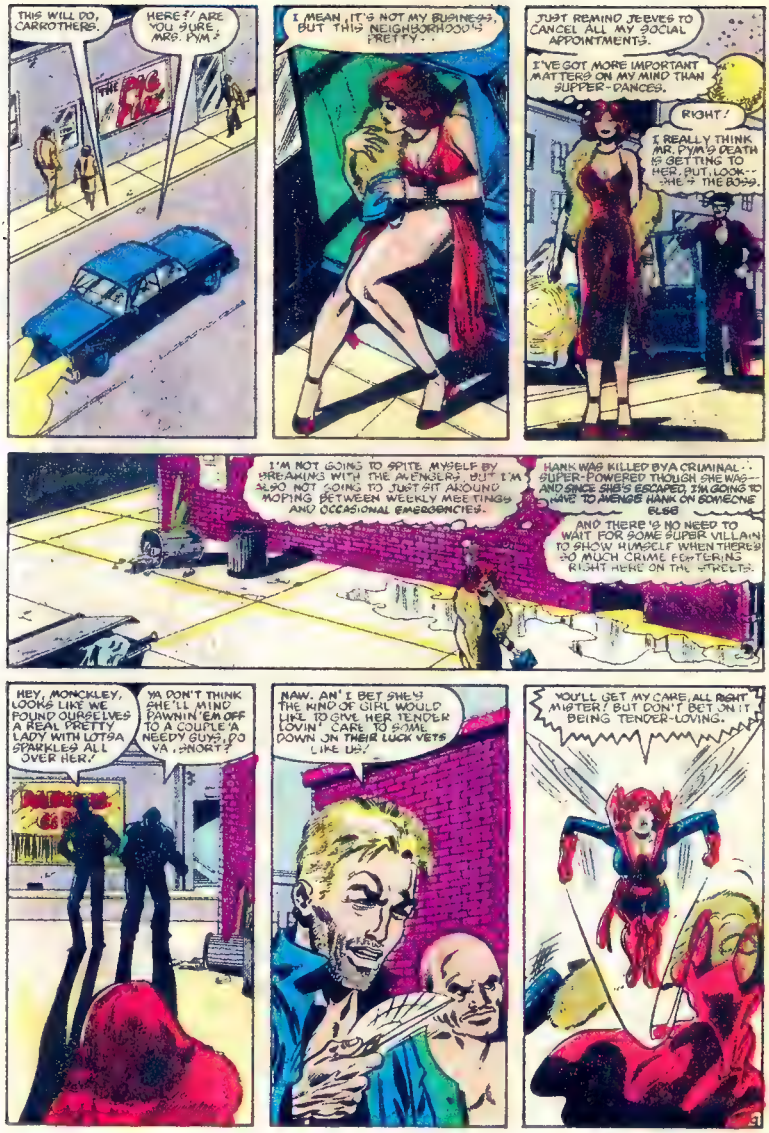



"SOME DAYS LATER, AT JANET PYM'S HOME IN CRESSKILL, NEW JERSEY...
"...THOUGH TIME HAS PASSED, THE GRIEF REMAINS...
WE WERE SOME TEAM, LOVER, WEREN'T WE? YOU AND I...
AND NOW THE NEWS FROM WPAT FM...
...CONTROVERSY STILL SURROUNDS THE DEATH EARLIER THIS WEEK OF DR. HENRY PYM, THE BIOPHYSICIST BETTER KNOWN AS YELLOW-JACKET...
SOURCES CLOSE TO THE INVESTIGATION ARE TODAY SPECULATING THAT PYM DID NOT DIE DURING BATTLE AS WAS PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED, BUT WAS SLAIN IN RETALIATION FOR A SNEAK ATTACK UPON HIS MYSTERIOUS FOE, AFTER SHE HAD BEEN CONVINCED BY CAPTAIN AMERICA TO CEASE HOSTILITIES...
...CAPTAIN AMERICA IS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE AVENGERS, ELSEWHERE IN THE NEWS...
LIES!
CRAK
JENKINS!
MADAME, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
JENKINS...
...JENKINS, GET ME TONY LEWIS ON THE PHONE...OVER AT THE TIMES!
6

"AND THAT NEXT MORNING, OUTSIDE AVENGER'S MANSION...
FINALLY I THANK THE PRESS FOR WHAT I KNOW WILL BE YOUR CO-OPERATION IN SUPPRESSING THOSE UNFORTUNATE RUMORS THAT HAVE ALREADY ARISEN.
STILL AND ALL, MRS. PYM, ISN'T IT TRUE-- AS CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS BEEN QUOTED-- THAT THE WOMAN, WHOEVER SHE WAS, HAD INDEED CEASED FIGHTING BEFORE--
AGAIN, MY HUSBAND DIED AN AVENGER IN THE LINE OF DUTY, PROTECTING INNOCENT PEOPLE FROM CRIMINAL ASSAULT AS HE HAD SWORN HIS LIFE TO DO!
BUT, MRS. PYM...
MRS. PYM!
THANK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THAT'S ALL.
"AND SOON, INSIDE...
JAN, WE ALL APPRECIATE YOUR GENUINE SORROW OVER HANK'S DEATH--I THINK YOU KNOW THAT WE ALL SHARE THE LOSS--BUT WAS THAT REALLY NECESSARY OUT THERE? TO UNDERMINE THE GROUP LIKE THAT FOR--
CAP, PLEASE. JAN'S IN A STATE.
REALLY NECESSARY!? THOR, IRON MAN, TIGRA--HAVE ANY OF YOU BOTHERED TO ASK THE CAPTAIN WHY HE CALLED OUT HANK'S NAME THAT LAST SECOND? WHY HE WARNED THAT WOMAN AND MADE HANK A SITTING DUCK FOR HER POWERS?
JAN, I HAD TO STOP HIM. YELLOWJACKET'S BLAST WOULD HAVE REENGAGED US IN BATTLE. WE HAD NO IDEA OF THE EXTENT OF THAT WOMAN'S UNPREDICTABLE POWERS. SHE MIGHT HAVE DESTROYED THE ENTIRE CITY, KILLED US ALL--!
6


SO YOU OPTED FOR HANK AS A SCAPEGOAT!
NO, OF COURSE NOT, JAN, I--
HANK'S TIMING WAS OFF, THAT'S ALL. CERTAINLY HIS INTENTIONS WERE DECENT AND HONORABLE.
GRIM ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THY WORDS, JANET. DO YOU FORMALLY CHARGE CAPTAIN AMERICA? IN THAT CASE--
NO. THERE WOULD BE NO USE. THE REST OF YOU, TOO. YOU'D SEEN HOW HANK WAS ACTING BEFORE YOU LEFT. YOU COULD TELL HE WAS TROUBLED. WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE COVER HIM?
WHY HAVE YOU HELD BACK THE TRUTH FROM THE MEDIA--THAT HANK WAS SIMPLY TRYING TO PREVENT THAT WOMAN FROM CAUSING ANY FURTHER HARM? HE WASN'T SNEAKING UP ON HER LIKE SOME COWARD.
JAN, AS AVENGERS, WE'RE RESPONSIBLE TO REPORT TO CONGRESS AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING WE PERJURE--
PERJURE!? TO TELL THE TRUTH--THAT HANK WAS A GOOD MAN, THE BEST? THAT HE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT!
JAN! JAN, PLEASE--!
YOU--YOUR HEART BLEEDS FOR THE CRIMINALS, DOESN'T IT, CAPTAIN? MAKE SURE TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS? WELL, I'LL TELL YOU, THE WHOLE FILTHY LOT OF CRIMINALS HAS NO RIGHTS? AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.
JAN, YOU'RE--
I DON'T KNOW. CAP REALLY DOES SEEM TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS IN THE NAME OF FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE AT TIMES.
COME ON, HONEY, LET'S CATCH SOME FRESH AIR.
7

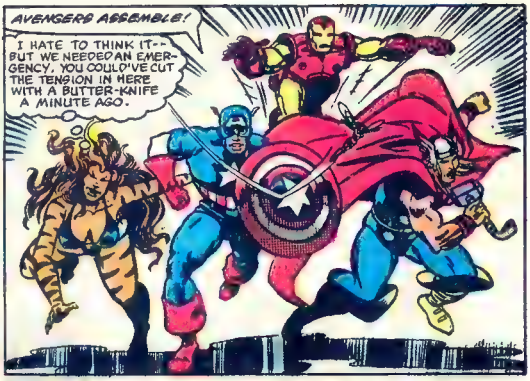
WELL, JAN BABY, YOU SURE GOT A TON OFF YOUR CHEST IN THERE. BUT MAYBE THE AIR NEEDED A CLEARING LIKE THAT, Y'KNOW, KIDDO. WE'VE GOTTA GET YOUR MIND OFF OF THINGS. HOW ABOUT A TRIP TO BLOOMIES?
I JUST GOT MY STIPEND CHECK, AND I'M DYING TO FIND AN EYE-SHADOW THAT'LL HIGHLIGHT THESE CAT'S EYE MARBLES OF MINE.
"YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING WE PERJURE!" I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM.
SORRY, TIGRA, I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO. I'LL SEE YOU AT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING.
GOOD AFTERNOON. UH... MA'AME WARP? OH, SHE WALKED RIGHT PAST ME. I HOPE I'VE DONE NOTHING TO OFFEND HER.
HANG LOOSE, JARV. THAT LITTLE BIRDIE'S IN NO SINGING MOOD RIGHT NOW. JUST NOT THE SAME OL' FUN-LOVIN' JAN AS SHE WAS BEFORE HANK WAS KILLED.
ANYWAY, HOW'S ABOUT SHARING A SAUCER OF MILK WITH ME, JARVEY? OR HAVEN'T I EVER TOLD YOU THAT LITTLE OL' TIGRA'S A PUSHOVER FOR A VIRILE BALD-HEADED MALE?
"LATER THAT EVENING, IN ONE OF THE CITY'S DARKER QUARTERS...
HOTEL ASHMORE
AMOUNG GIRLS

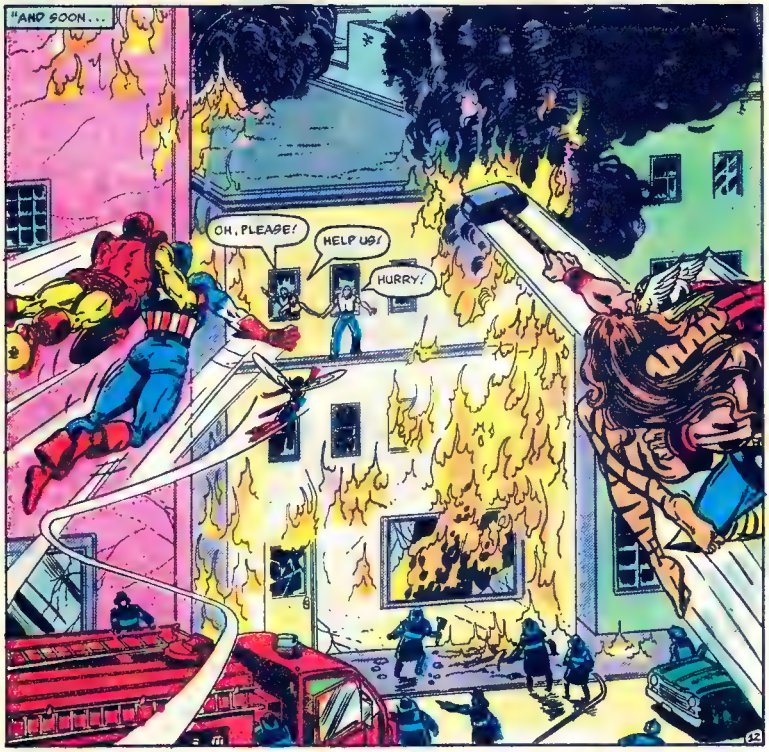

THIS WILL DO, CARROTHERS.
HERE?! ARE YOU SURE, MRS. PYM?
THE BIG FIX
I MEAN, IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS, BUT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD'S PRETTY...
JUST REMIND JEEVES TO CANCEL ALL MY SOCIAL APPOINTMENTS.
I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS ON MY MIND THAN SUPPER-DANCES.
RIGHT!
I REALLY THINK MR. PYM'S DEATH IS GETTING TO HER. BUT, LOOK-- SHE'S THE BOSS.
I'M NOT GOING TO SPITE MYSELF BY BREAKING WITH THE AVENGERS. BUT I'M ALSO NOT GOING TO JUST SIT AROUND MOPING BETWEEN WEEKLY MEETINGS AND OCCASIONAL EMERGENCIES.
HANK WAS KILLED BY A CRIMINAL-- SUPER-POWERED THOUGH SHE WAS-- AND SINCE SHE'S ESCAPED, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO AVENGE HANK ON SOMEONE ELSE
AND THERE'S NO NEED TO WAIT FOR SOME SUPER VILLAIN TO SHOW HIMSELF WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH CRIME FIGHTING RIGHT HERE ON THE STREETS.
HEY, MONCKLEY, LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND OURSELVES A REAL PRETTY LADY WITH LOTSA SPARKLES ALL OVER HER!
YA DON'T THINK SHE'LL MIND PAWNIN' 'EM OFF TO A COUPLE A NEEDY GUYS, DO YA, SNORT?
NAW. AN' I BET SHE'S THE KIND OF GIRL WOULD LIKE TO GIVE HER TENDER LOVIN' CARE TO SOME DOWN ON THEIR LUCK VETS LIKE US!
YOU'LL GET MY CARE, ALL RIGHT MISTER! BUT DON'T BET ON IT BEING TENDER-LOVING.

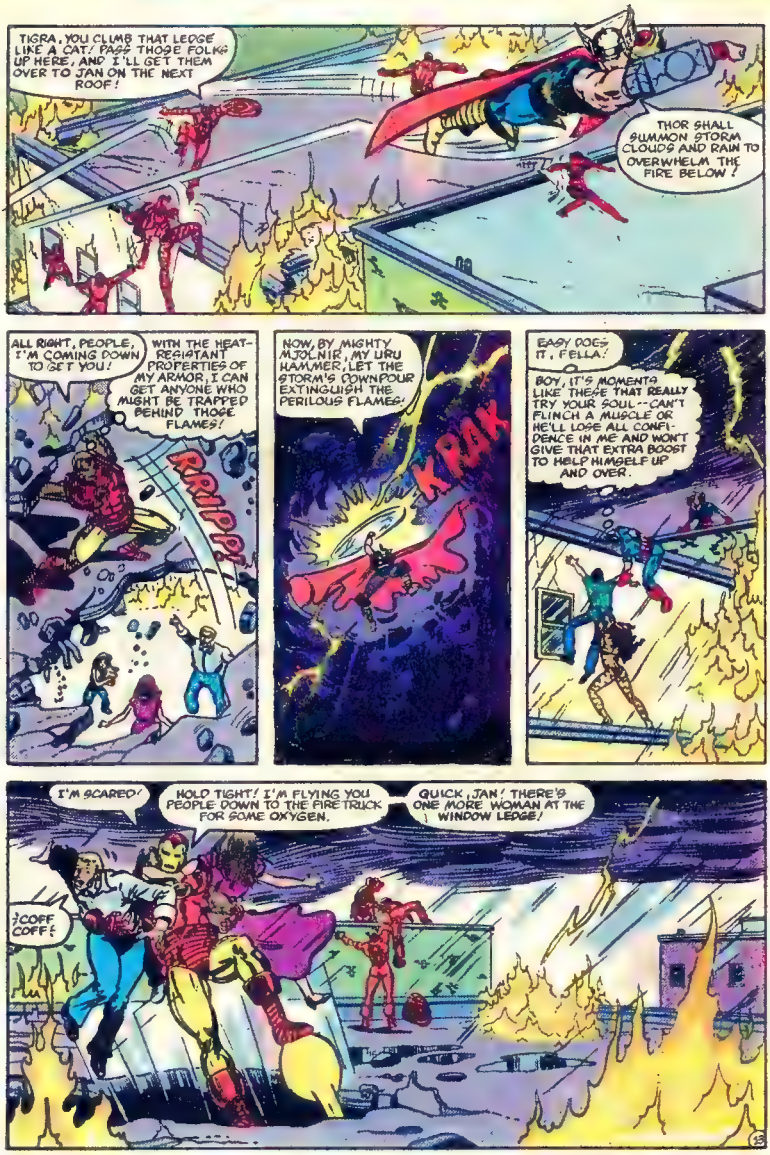
ZZZRAK!
TRY THIS!
ZZZRAK!
WHEN THE POLICE SHOW, TELL THEM YOU'RE HERE COMPLIMENTS OF THE BLACK WASP! AND JUST SO YOU DON'T FORGET THE FEEL OF IT...
...THIS ONE'S FOR HANK!
ZZZATTZ!
"OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, JAN CRUSADES AGAINST THE CRIMINAL WORLD... 'BEWARE THE STING OF THE BLACK WASP,' BECOMES HER BYWORD, AND ALWAYS THERE IS THAT DEADLY SECOND BLAST... FOR HANK.'
AVENGER JUSTICE
VIGILANTE
DAILY GLOBULE
BLACK WASP RAMPAGE
"THEN, AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED AVENGERS MEETING...
I'LL HANDLE IT BY MYSELF!
SAME COSTUME TWO WEEKS IN A ROW, JAN? NO NEW DESIGN? THAT'S A RECORD! WHO STOLE YOUR DRAWING BOARD? PERSONALLY, I THINK YOU LOOK LIKE THE BLACK WIDOW IN THIS GET-UP. OOPS! WOW, I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT ONE, JANNY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
FORGET IT, TIGRA!

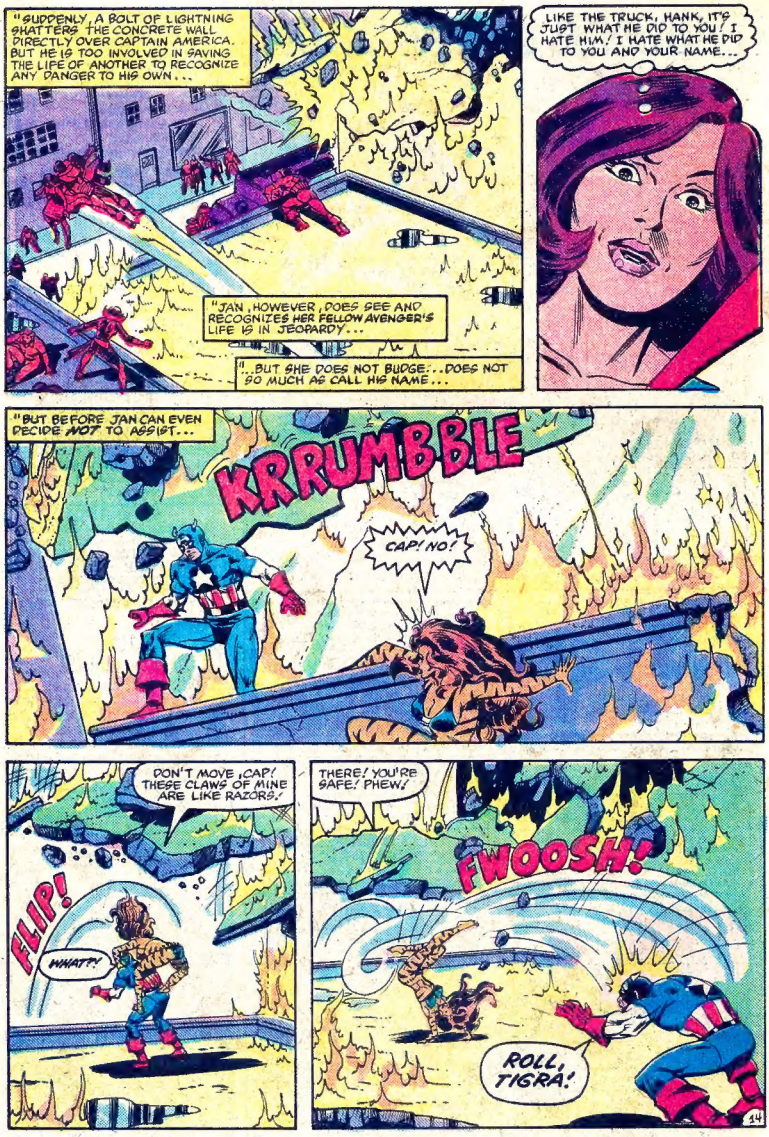
FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, THEN. AS A GROUP, WE'VE ALWAYS STOOD FOR ABIDING BY THE LAW, WORKING WITHIN ITS FRAMEWORK, AVOIDING UNDUE PAIN AND UNNECESSARY DEATH WHEN DEALING WITH AN ADVERSARY...
...THE VALUES WE HOLD AS AVENGERS, NEEDLESS TO SAY, ARE MEANT TO GUIDE US IN OUR INDIVIDUAL LIVES AS WELL. NOW...
I DON'T HAVE THE STOMACH FOR THIS.
PERMIT THOR TO SPEAK, CAPTAIN JAN... WHAT THE CAPTAIN WISHES TO SAY IS THAT...
NO, I'LL FINISH, THOR. JAN, IT'S THAT REPORTS OF YOUR APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS AS THE BLACK WASP OVER THESE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE INDICATED EXCESSIVE FORCE IN EACH CASE. IT'S ALMOST--
JAN, IT'S ALMOST GROUNDS FOR ASSAULT CHARGES!
THERE ARE RIGHT WAYS AND WRONG WAYS--
HAVEN'T I MADE IT CLEAR THAT I'M TIRED OF YOUR TELLING ME WHAT I CAN AND CANNOT DO, CAP?! WHAT I DO ON MY OWN TIME IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! KEEP YOUR HIGH-FLYING IDEALS TO YOURSELF -- IT'S YOU AND YOUR SMUG IDEALS THAT KILLED HANK IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I HATE YOU, CAP! I CAN'T STAND TO LOOK AT YOU!
NOT AGAIN!
JAN, YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR!
THAT'S IT! IT'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE EITHER ME OR HER!
THIS CANNOT CONTINUE!

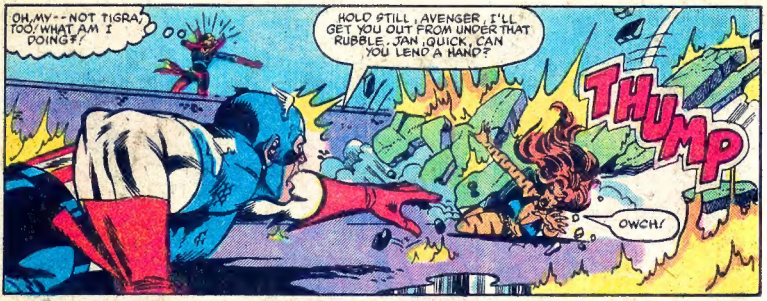
CAPTAIN AMERICA--I INTRUDE ONLY FOR AN EMERGENCY. THE PHOTO SCANNER'S REPORTING A FIRE BLAZING BEYOND CONTROL IN THE FORTUNE JEWELRY BUILDING! THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THE CITY'S WATER PRESSURE, AND THE FIREMEN ARE STANDING BY HELPLESS!
THAT'S RIGHT NEARBY!


AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
I HATE TO THINK IT--BUT WE NEEDED AN EMERGENCY. YOU COULD'VE CUT THE TENSION IN HERE WITH A BUTTER-KNIFE A MINUTE AGO.

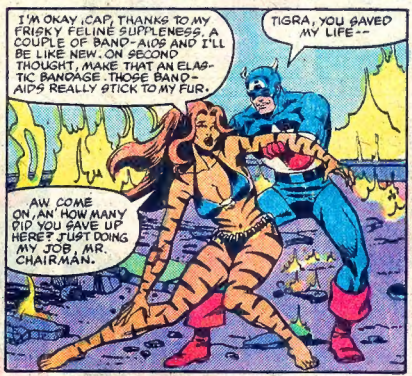

"AND SOON...
OH, PLEASE!
HELP US!
HURRY!


TIGRA, YOU CLIMB THAT LEDGE LIKE A CAT! PASS THOSE FOLKS UP HERE, AND I'LL GET THEM OVER TO JAN ON THE NEXT ROOF!
THOR SHALL SUMMON STORM CLOUDS AND RAIN TO OVERWHELM THE FIRE BELOW!
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE, I'M COMING DOWN TO GET YOU!
WITH THE HEAT-RESISTANT PROPERTIES OF MY ARMOR, I CAN GET ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE TRAPPED BEHIND THOSE FLAMES!
RRRIPP!
NOW, BY MIGHTY MJOLNIR, MY URU HAMMER, LET THE STORM'S DOWNPOUR EXTINGUISH THE PERILOUS FLAMES!
KRAK
EASY DOES IT, FELLA!
BOY, IT'S MOMENTS LIKE THESE THAT REALLY TRY YOUR SOUL--CAN'T FLINCH A MUSCLE OR HE'LL LOSE ALL CONFIDENCE IN ME AND WON'T GIVE THAT EXTRA BOOST TO HELP HIMSELF UP AND OVER.
I'M SCARED!
HOLD TIGHT! I'M FLYING YOU PEOPLE DOWN TO THE FIRE TRUCK FOR SOME OXYGEN.
QUICK, JAN! THERE'S ONE MORE WOMAN AT THE WINDOW LEDGE!
COFF COFF!


"SUDDENLY A BOLT OF LIGHTNING SHATTERS THE CONCRETE WALL DIRECTLY OVER CAPTAIN AMERICA. BUT HE IS TOO INVOLVED IN SAVING THE LIFE OF ANOTHER TO RECOGNIZE ANY DANGER TO HIS OWN...
"JAN, HOWEVER, DOES SEE AND RECOGNIZES HER FELLOW AVENGER'S LIFE IS IN JEOPARDY...
"...BUT SHE DOES NOT BUDGE...DOES NOT SO MUCH AS CALL HIS NAME...
LIKE THE TRUCK, HANK, IT'S JUST WHAT HE DID TO YOU! I HATE HIM! I HATE WHAT HE DID TO YOU AND YOUR NAME...
"BUT BEFORE JAN CAN EVEN DECIDE NOT TO ASSIST...
KRRUMBBLE
CAP! NO!
DON'T MOVE, CAP! THESE CLAWS OF MINE ARE LIKE RAZORS!
FLIP!
WHAT?!
THERE! YOU'RE SAFE! PHEW!
FWOOSH!
ROLL, TIGRA!
14

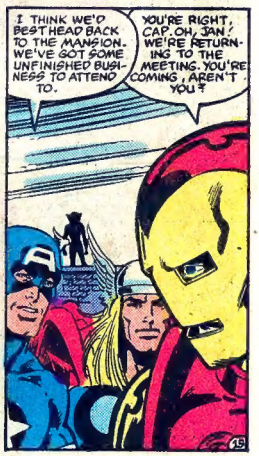

OH, MY -- NOT TIGRA, TOO! WHAT AM I DOING?!
HOLD STILL, AVENGER. I'LL GET YOU OUT FROM UNDER THAT RUBBLE. JAN, QUICK, CAN YOU LEND A HAND?
THUMP
OWCH!

THIS IS NOT WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE WANTED, HANK. I'VE LET YOU DOWN, LOVER!


I'M OKAY, CAP, THANKS TO MY FRISKY FELINE SUPPLENESS. A COUPLE OF BAND-AIDS AND I'LL BE LIKE NEW. ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAKE THAT AN ELASTIC BANDAGE. THOSE BAND-AIDS REALLY STICK TO MY FUR.
TIGRA, YOU SAVED MY LIFE--
AW COME ON, AN' HOW MANY DID YOU SAVE UP HERE? JUST DOING MY JOB, MR. CHAIRMAN.

FORGIVE ME, DARLING!

EVERYONE ALL RIGHT UP HERE? THE BUILDINGS COMPLETELY EVACUATED.
AMBULANCES AND SUPPLIES HAVE ARRIVED BELOW, AND WE MAY TAKE OUR LEAVE, FRIENDS.
GOOD JOB, AVENGERS. YOU'VE PREVENTED A REAL TRAGEDY HERE TODAY!
THEY'RE ALL SO UNSELFISH, SO GENEROUS... I FEEL SO ASHAMED!


I THINK WE'D BEST HEAD BACK TO THE MANSION. WE'VE GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
YOU'RE RIGHT, CAP. OH, JAN! WE'RE RETURNING TO THE MEETING. YOU'RE COMING, AREN'T YOU?

"AND SO...
I'M... I'M NOT GOING BACK INTO THE MEETING ROOM. I'M... QUITTING.
YOU SEE, I HAVE THIS FEELING THAT I'VE BEEN BETRAYING HANK'S MEMORY ALL THE WHILE THINKING I WAS REDEEMING HIM.
I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE I'VE BEEN PLAYING HAMLET TOO LONG. TIME TO CAST OFF MY MOURNING CLOTHES AND REJOIN THE HUMAN RACE.
I'D LIKE TO SAY I'M SORRY, BUT I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED THAT HANK WAS WRONG OR THAT ONE OF YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE SAVED HIM.
I JUST DON'T THINK I BELONG HERE ANYMORE.
ALTHOUGH, I WAS SORT OF HALF-HOPING ONE OF YOU MIGHT SAY, "NO, DON'T GO!"
I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T LEAVE OURSELVES SHORT-HANDED LIKE THIS. NOMINATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS WILL BE IN ORDER, I GUESS...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT, CAP--THROUGH SLEET AND SNOW AND BROKEN HEARTS, THE AVENGERS MUST GO ON, RIGHT?
END

DARTHSCANNER!
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A SCANNER!
READ IT!
LIKE IT!
BUY IT!